Railways	Year	No. of cases	Value of coal (In Rs.)	Quantity of coal (In Kgs.)
N.F.	1998-99	—	—	—
	1999-2000	—	—	—
Southern	1998-99	—	—	—
	1999-2000	—	—	—
S.C.	1998-99	40	113585	77945
	1999-2000	27	49555	14864
S.E.	1998-99	18	39970	44325
	1999-2000	12	18585	12970
Western	1998-99	85	15250	4815
	1999-2000	54	12095	3145
Total	1998-99	285	349564	293774
	1999-2000	195	260136	160972

(b) and (c) All cases of theft of coal are registered and investigated by Railway Protection Force under the provision of the Railway Property (Unlawful Possession) Act, 1966. Offenders are prosecuted in the Court of Law. As and when any instance of involvement of Railway employees comes to notice, suitable action is taken against them in the Court of Law, apart from Departmental disciplinary action.

Involvement of Private Sector in Gauge Conversion

2913. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are involving private sector in the gauge conversion,

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) in how many States this was executed and/or is likely to be executed, giving State-wise, zone- wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) In view of resource constraints, and in order to involve the stake-holders in the development and implemention of Railway

projects, efforts are being made by the Government to involve the user agencies such as Ports, Public Sector Undertakings as also the State Governments in Public-private partnerships for implementing Railway projects.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with M/s. Gujarat Pipavav Port Limited for forming a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) for Gauge Conversion of Surendranagar-Pipavav and New Line extension to Pipavav port in the State of Gujarat has been signed. The SPV shall undertake the work of Broad Gauge connectivity between Surendranagar and the Port of Pipavav.

Similarly, with the basic objective of encouraging private sector participation in the development of Rail infrastructure like Gauge Conversion, Doubling etc., the Ministry of Railways had also introduced a Build-Own-Lease-Transfer (BOLT) scheme. However, the BOLT scheme, in its present form, has not been quite successful and the response has been poor. At present, there is only one on- going project under the BOLT scheme namely Mudkhed-Adilabad Gauge Conversion, on South Central Railway, traversing the States of Maharastra and Andhra Pradesh.

Wtih a view to make BOLT scheme more investor friendly, it has decided to modify the terms and conditions of the scheme. Further bids for the identified infrastructure projects, under the BOLT scheme, would be invited after finalisation of the bid documents for the modified scheme.

Sole Selling Clause in Railway Bookstall Agreements

2914. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM:
SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAY be pleased to state:

(a) whether action for withdrawal of the sole selling right clause from the current bookstall agreements of Railways is in conformity with provision of article 19(1) G of the Constitution of India; and

(b) if not, what are the detailed reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS: (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Sole selling right clause provided in the agreements of the bookstall licensees on Indian Railways was withdrawn in 1975 except in case of M/s A.H. Wheeler & Co. whose sole rights were restricted to only those stations, where they were holding bookstalls. This clause was